II. Amendments to the Claims

Kindly cancel Claim 10, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Kindly amend Claims 1-8 as shown below, and add new claim 11.

Claim 1 (currently amended) A multi-wavelength laser source (MWLS) system, comprising:

(a) first and second monochromatic lasers having first (f_1) and second (f_2) lasing frequencies, respectively;

(b) means for amplifying combined signals of said first and second lasers;

(c) means for multiplying, using non-linear optical effects, the amplified combined signals to expand the coverage of the wavelength channels so as to yield comblike multi-channel WDM laser signals comprising a plurality of more than two channels separated from each other by a frequency equal to the difference between f1 and f2.

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Claim 2 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 1, said means for multiplying comprising a plurality of serially interconnected optical fiber sections each section having respective predetermined propagation characteristics for said amplified combined signals which

differ from respective predetermined propagation characteristics of any neighboring sections.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 2, said predetermined propagation characteristics ~~being~~ comprising propagation mode, dispersion, and length.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 3, said plurality of serially interconnected fiber sections ~~being~~ comprising five sections having lengths L_1, L_2, L_3, L_4 and L_5, respectively, L_1 being the first section, and L_5 being the ~~last~~ fifth section.

A' Cont'd

Claim 5 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 4, the third fiber section ~~being~~ comprising a single mode fiber (SMF) section.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 5, the first, second, fourth, and ~~eight~~ fifth fiber ~~section being~~ sections comprising dispersion shifted fiber (DSF) sections.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The system as described in claim 6, in which L_1 = 1.1 km, L_2 = 1.1 km, L_3 = 20 m, L_4 = 1 km and L_5 = 1 km.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The system as defined in claim 7, said ~~fine~~ five fiber ~~section,~~ sections having associated dispersion ~~value~~ values, D_1 to D_5 as follows: D_1 = -0.399; D_2 = 0.402; D_3 = 16; D_4 = 0.402 and D_5 = -0.399, all in units of ps/km/nm.

Claim 9 (original) The system as described in claim 8, wherein f1 and f2 correspond to wavelengths in the vicinity of 1550 nm.

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Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new) A system as defined in claim 2 comprising means for modulating said first and second monochromatic lasers when the first and second monochromatic lasers are lasing by a very low frequency signal whereby Stimulated Brillouin Scattering of the amplified combined signals is reduced.